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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/800,046

Examiner

Mylinh Tran

Applicant(s)

D'SOUZA ET AL.

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/12/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 07/26/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings filed 07/26/04 is informal with hand writings. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Timothy J. Hadlock on 09/16/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1 and 9, in section "c", replace "a expert-interface" by "an expert-interface".

Claim 10: A method for product selection comprising:

- a. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a graphically-displayed tree structure representing a plurality of product applications;
- b. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more use condition with each node of the tree structure; and
- c. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more suitability ratings for a plurality of applications;
- d. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a list of products
- e. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more product with each leaf node of the tree structure;
- f. associating via a graphical user interface use condition choices with each product;
- g. associating via a graphical user interface suitability ratings for each product;
- [a] h. selecting via a graphical-use interface a path in a tree structure, and for displaying on the same window of the graphical-use interface:
 - i. the products associated with the leaf node of the selected path;
 - ii. the use conditions associated with each node of the selected path; and
 - iii. the product usability suitability indicators associated with each node of the selected path;
- [b] i. selecting via the same window of the graphical-use interface one or more of the use conditions associated with the nodes of the selected path

and for entering the user-defined relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators for the intended application of the products associated with the leaf nodes of the selected path;

[c] l. comparing the selected use conditions with the displayed products, wherein products not having such selected use conditions as attributes are filtered out of the displayed list of products;

[d] m. comparing the entered relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators with the product usability suitability indicators associated with the displayed products, associating a score with each displayed product indicating the correlation of the comparison, and displaying the score with the product; and

[e] n. printing the resulting product list, corresponding suitability scores, selected tree path, selected use conditions, and entered relative importance of product usability suitability indicators.

Claim 17: A method for product selection comprising:

a. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a graphically-displayed tree structure representing a plurality of product applications;

b. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more use condition with each node of the tree structure; and

c. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more suitability ratings for a plurality of applications;

d. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a list of products

e. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more

product with each leaf node of the tree structure;

f. associating via a graphical user interface use condition choices with each

product;

g. associating via a graphical user interface suitability ratings for each

product;

[a] h. selecting via a graphical-use interface a path in a tree structure, and for displaying on the same window of the graphical-use interface:

i. the products associated with the leaf node of the selected path (and);

ii. the use conditions associated with each node of the selected path; and

iii. the product usability suitability indicators associated with each node of the selected path for ranking by user-definable important factors;

[b] i. selecting via the same window of the graphical-use interface one or more of the use conditions associated with the nodes of the selected path and for entering the user-defined relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators for the intended application of the products associated with the leaf nodes of the selected path;

[c] j. comparing the selected use conditions with the displayed products, wherein products not having such selected use conditions as attributes are filtered out of the displayed list of products;

[d] m. comparing the entered relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators with the product usability suitability indicators associated with the displayed products, associating a score with each displayed product indicating the correlation of the comparison, and displaying the score with the product; and

[e] n. printing the resulting product list in stored order of highest score first, corresponding suitability scores, selected tree path, selected use conditions, and entered relative importance of product usability suitability indicators; and

[f] o. wherein user-interface is real-time, interactive for permitting a user to change one or more selections and to evaluate any resulting changes in the product list.

Claim 18: A machine-readable program storage medium tangibly embodying sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions for execution by at least one processing system, the sequences of instructions to perform steps for:

a. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a graphically-displayed tree structure representing a plurality of product applications;

b. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more use condition with each node of the tree structure; and

c. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more suitability ratings for a plurality of applications;

d. creating and modifying via a graphical user interface a list of products

e. associating and modifying via a graphical user interface one or more product with each leaf node of the tree structure;

f. associating via a graphical user interface use condition choices with each product;

g. associating via a graphical user interface suitability ratings for each product;

[a] h. selecting via a graphical-use interface a path in a tree structure, and for displaying on the same window of the graphical-use interface:

- i. the products associated with the leaf node of the selected path;
- ii. the use conditions associated with each node of the selected path; and
- iii. the product usability suitability indicators associated with each node of the selected path;

[b] i. selecting via the same window of the graphical-use interface one or more of the use conditions associated with the nodes of the selected path and for entering the user-defined relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators for the intended application of the products associated with the leaf nodes of the selected path;

[c] j. comparing the selected use conditions with the displayed products, wherein products not having such selected use conditions as attributes are filtered out of the displayed list of products;

[d] m. comparing the entered relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators with the product usability suitability indicators associated with the displayed products, associating a score with each displayed product indicating the correlation of the comparison, and displaying the score with the product; and

[e] n. printing the resulting product list, corresponding suitability scores, selected tree path, selected use conditions, and entered relative importance of product usability suitability indicators.

In each of claims 19, 20, 21 and 22, line 1, replace “The machine-readable program storage medium tangibly of claim 11.” by “The machine-readable program storage medium tangibly of claim 18.”

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 18, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, prior art of record fails to teach comparing the entered relative importance of the product usability suitability indicators with the product usability suitability indicators associated with the displayed products, associating a score with each displayed product indicating the correlation of the comparison, and displaying the score with the product; and outputting the resulting the product list, corresponding suitability scores, selected tree path, selected use conditions, and entered relative importance of product usability suitability indicators.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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